

SHARI ROWLAND

2105 S. Blauvelt Avenue □ Sioux Falls, South Dakota □ 605-339-1424

January 17, 2002

Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street N.W., Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

The settlement in *United States vs. Microsoft* has my strong support because four years is plenty of time to examine all of the issues and reach logical conclusions in this highly visible antitrust suit. From everything I've seen on this issue, this case has exhausted every possibility of wrongdoing, and I think it is remarkable that none of the findings have indicated consumers were being harmed by Microsoft Corporation. For your information, I have worked with many businesses in Sioux Falls in a consulting capacity, and I can tell you that the vast majority of them use Windows systems, and they are very pleased with the products they use.

From what I've learned, the remedies sought in this settlement are not only fair, but also would be beneficial to improving the education and career preparedness of disadvantaged kids. This would be a commendable result from a case which has threatened to tie the hands of research and development in information technologies.

I hope this case can be allowed to end fairly and quickly, and that Microsoft can continue to produce the great innovations which have helped to strengthen America's economy, and to keep our nation in the leadership position in technological breakthroughs.

Sincerely,


Shari Rowland